

REMARKS

This amendment responds to the Office Action dated December 15, 2003, in which the Examiner finally rejected claims 5-6, 11-12, 15, 20-22 and 24, and allowed claims 2-4, 7-10, 14 and 23. In response, applicant has amended claims 5-7, 11-12, 15-17, and 23-24 (without prejudice or disclaimer, subject to refiling in a continuation or divisional application), and cancelled withdrawn claims 18 and 19, again without prejudice or disclaimer subject to refiling in a continuation or divisional application. New claims 25-26 have been presented. Basis for these claims can be found in Table 1 (page 8, lines 25-33) and on page 9, lines 17-22 of the specification. No new matter is presented herewith. Entry of the new claims is therefore respectfully requested. Reexamination and reconsideration are also respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

The Examiner has objected to claim 15 as allegedly being in improper dependent form for failing to limit the subject matter of a previous claim. In response, applicant has amended claim 15 to obviate the Examiner's objection, and submits that the objection to claim 15 can be withdrawn as moot. Applicant has also cancelled claim 12 and amended claim 24 to obviate the remaining rejections under 37 C.F.R. section 1.75(c).

The Examiner has also rejected claims 11-12, 15 and 20-22 under 35 U.S.C. section 112, 1st paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. In response, applicant has amended the claims to recite the specific

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sequences set forth in the specification, and has amended claims 11 and 15 as suggested by the Examiner in order to advance prosecution of this application, but without conceding the propriety of the rejections. Applicant expressly reserves the right to pursue such claims in a continuation or similar application, and therefore cancels or amends the claims under consideration without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicant submits that the foregoing rejection can be withdrawn as moot.

The Examiner has rejected claims 5 and 6 as allegedly indefinite under 35 U.S.C. section 112, 2d paragraph, asserting that the claims lack antecedent basis. Applicant has amended those claims, and submits that they now overcome the rejections. Applicant requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

The Examiner has also rejected claims 12 and 20-22 under 35 U.S.C. section 102, asserting that the claims are anticipated by Levi or Harvey. Applicant has cancelled those claims in order to advance the prosecution of this application, and submits that the rejections are now rendered moot.

Likewise, the rejection of claims 11 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. section 102 as anticipated by Wang is believed to be moot in that applicants have deleted the phrase "capable of specifically binding."

In sum, applicant submits that each of the pending rejections has been overcome either by canceling the rejected claim or amending it in the manner suggested by the Examiner. Applicant appreciates the notification that claims 2-4, 7-10, 14 and 23 are allowed. Applicant believes that all of the other issues raised by the Examiner have been addressed, and asks that a Notice of Allowability be issued forthwith.

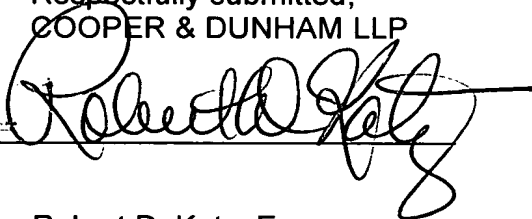
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The Commissioner is hereby authorized to credit any overpayment or charge any additional fee required in connection with the filing or processing of this Amendment to Deposit Account No. 03-3125.

Respectfully submitted,
COOPER & DUNHAM LLP

Dated: April 15, 2004

By



I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited
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